

REMARKS

The present application was filed on November 26, 2003 with claims 1 through 20. Claims 1 through 20 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al. (Clustering by Pattern Similarity in Large Data Sets, ACM SIGMOD' 2002 June 4-6, Madison Wisconsin, USA) in view of Kravec et al. (United States Patent No. 7,366,352).

Independent Claims 1 and 18-20

Independent claims 1 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al. in view of Kravec et al.

Applicants submit that Kravec is **not** available as prior art under Section 103, since Kravec qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of 35 U.S.C. §102 and the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. (See, 35 U.S.C. §103(c).)

Thus, independent claims 1 and 18-20 are not properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al. in view of Kravec et al.

Dependent Claims 2-17

Dependent claims 2-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al. in view of Kravec et al.

Claims 2-17 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore patentably distinguished over Wang et al. and Kravec et al., alone or in combination, because of their dependency from independent claim 1 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim.

All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-20, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kevin M. Mason".

Date: February 11, 2010

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